# TEASTAAR Science Update

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### What does the STAAR science program look like now?

STAAR grade 5 science (includes TEKS from grades 3 and 4)

STAAR grade 8 science (includes TEKS from grades 6 and 7)

**STAAR Biology** 

STAAR-L versions of all three

STAAR Modified versions of all three (last year to be administered)

STAAR Alternate (being redeveloped for 2014-15)

### Comparison of STAAR science assessments

	Grade 5	Grade 8	Biology
# of items	44	54	54
# of griddables	1	4	0
Reference materials	None	Formulas + Periodic Table	None
Calculators	Not allowed	Not allowed	At least one 4-function calculator available for every 5 students
Administrations	April	April	May, July, December
Time limit	4 hours	4 hours	4 hours

### No changes to the science assessments

Readiness/Supporting standards

Blueprints

Grids

Reference materials

Calculator policy

Time limits

#### STAAR Alternate

Legislation passed in 2013 requires the agency to redevelop STAAR Alternate with no teacher requirement to prepare tasks or materials.

The new assessment must be administered no later than the 2014–2015 school year.

TEA Student Assessment convened an advisory committee in September 2013 to work on plans for the development of this new assessment.

#### STAAR Modified

The USDE has informed states that assessments based on modified standards for students served by special education cannot be used for accountability purposes after the 2013–2014 school year.

Therefore, STAAR Modified will be administered for the final time in spring 2014.

TEA Student Assessment convened an advisory committee in September 2013 to work on plans for the inclusion of this population of students in the general assessment program beginning in spring 2015.

## What state assessment options will be available for students receiving special education services in 2015?

**STAAR** 

STAAR Spanish

STAAR L

**STAAR Alternate** 

Accommodations will be allowed but have not yet been finalized for the 2014-2015 school year.

### STAAR Standardized Oral Administration (SOA)

Was piloted in spring 2013 with a few districts

- Grade 4 math and reading
- Grade 8 science and social studies

Will be implemented statewide in spring 2014 on a voluntary basis

- Grade 4 math and reading
- Grade 7 math and reading
- Grade 8 science and social studies

### STAAR Standardized Oral Administration (SOA)

Is offered online in TestNav using a text-to-speech tool

Involves the computer reading test questions and answer choices to students

#### Allows students to

- Switch between continuous read and word only modes
- Replay and rewind as needed
- Adjust the volume and playback rate but not the computer voice

#### STAAR Release Schedule

The agency is required to release general STAAR assessments for grades 3–8 and EOC (first spring form only) and STAAR Spanish assessments for grades 3–5 (first spring form only) in

- · 2012–2013
- · 2013-2014
- · 2014–2015
- · 2015–2016

The agency is required to release general STAAR and STAAR Spanish every third year thereafter.

#### Assessment Calendar

In spring and summer 2014, the STAAR EOC testing window will be one week long.

To reduce the number of days needed for testing, STAAR grade 8 social studies has been moved to Tuesday and will now be on the same day as STAAR grades 3, 4, 6, and 7 mathematics.

#### STAAR Performance Standards

Through commissioner of education rules, TEA is proposing

- To maintain phase-in 1 performance standards for STAAR for the 2013–2014 school year
- That performance standards for STAAR EOC assessments be based on when students take their first EOC assessment and apply to all five EOC assessments

This proposed rule should be adopted later this spring.

### Substitutes for STAAR EOC Assessments

Satisfactory performance on other assessments (e.g., AP, IB, SAT, ACT) in equivalent courses can substitute for performance on STAAR EOC assessments.

See commissioner of education rule: 19 TAC Chapter 101, Assessment, Subchapter DD, Commissioner's Rules Concerning Substitute Assessments for Graduation

### Substitutes for STAAR EOC Assessments

Substitute Assessments Chart

	AP		IB*		PSAT		PLAN		SAT		ACT^	
STAAR EOC Assessment	Assessment	Passing Score	Assessment	Passing Score	Assessment	Passing Score	Assessment	Passing Score	Assessment	Passing Score	Assessment	Passing Score
Algebra I					Mathematics	47	Mathematics	19	Mathematics	500	Mathematics	22
English L	English Language	3	Language A:	,					Critical Reading	500	Reading	21
English I+	and Composition	5	Language and Literature	4					Writing	500	Combined English/Writing	18
English II+	English Language	3	Language A: Language and	4					Critical Reading	500	Reading	21
	and Composition		Literature						Writing	500	Combined English/Writing	18
Biology	Biology	3	Biology	4								
U.S. History	U.S. History	3	History of the Americas	4								

<sup>\*</sup>The set passing score for the IB substitute assessments applies to both Standard Level and Higher Level examinations.

<sup>^</sup> To use the ACT as a substitute for the STAAR EOC English II assessment, a student must take the optional ACT writing assessment and achieve a combined English/writing score of 18.

<sup>+</sup> A satisfactory score on a substitute assessment can apply to either the English I or English II assessment; however, the same assessment cannot be substituted for both the English I and II assessments.

### TAKS Update

To be eligible to take TAKS exit level tests, students

- Must have TAKS as a graduation requirement
- Must be classified as an 11<sup>th</sup> grader or higher

Beginning in fall 2014, TAKS exit level tests will be available only as an online administration.

Beginning in spring 2015, there will no longer be an April TAKS exit level administration.

Q: "Some of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are taking biology. Are they required to take both the grade 8 science test and the biology EOC?"

A: No. Except as required for purposes of federal accountability ... a Grade 3-8 student shall not be administered a grade-level assessment if the student ... is enrolled in a course for high school credit in a subject intended for students above the student's enrolled grade level and will be administered an end-of-course assessment instrument ... that aligns with the curriculum for that course or subject within the same content area. (19 TAC §101.3011)

Q: "Some of our 7<sup>th</sup> graders are taking 8<sup>th</sup> grade science. Are they required to take STAAR grade 8 science?"

A: No. There is no requirement for students enrolled in grade 7 to take a science assessment. Students must be enrolled in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade to take STAAR grade 8 science.

Q: "Some of our 8<sup>th</sup> graders are taking IPC instead of 8<sup>th</sup> grade science. Do they still need to take the grade 8 STAAR science assessment?

A: Yes. A grade 8 student who is receiving instruction in all of the TEKS for Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) will not take a higher-level STAAR science assessment since there is not a STAAR assessment for IPC. Instead, the student will take the four enrolled grade-level assessments (reading, mathematics, science, and social studies).

Q: "How many questions do students need to get right in order to pass?"

A: The basic score on any test is the raw score, which is the number of questions answered correctly regardless of difficulty level. A scale score is a conversion of the raw score onto a scale that takes into account the difficulty level of the specific set of questions used on a test in any given year. A scale-score system allows every test to have exactly the same passing standard, or level of performance required, even though the raw score needed to pass the test may vary slightly from year to year.

#### Get involved

Sign up to be invited to our educator committees
<a href="http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/RecommendationEducatorCommittee.pdf">http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/RecommendationEducatorCommittee.pdf</a>

You can review and edit STAAR test questions

You can collaborate with other science educators

### Educators Who Have Attended STAAR Committees Have Said...

Great learning experience!

The collaboration will really help us in meeting the needs of our students.

This has made me reflect on my teaching practices and on how important it is that <u>every</u> teacher does his/her part in teaching science.

It's great to be able to have your voice heard and share input w/ other educators from across the state.

I feel like I've been given a guide to teach this subject better.

Excellent opportunity to gain insight into how test questions are manufactured and how the tests are designed.

This has been very helpful to me as a teacher which I feel will make me a better teacher for my students.

I wish all of my colleagues could attend these item review sessions.

### Questions?

Look on the TEA Student Assessment website: <a href="http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/">http://www.tea.state.tx.us/student.assessment/</a>

Call the TEA Student Assessment Division: 512-463-9536

Email the TEA Student Assessment Division: student.assessment@tea.state.tx.us

Email the science assessment team: <a href="mailto:science.test@tea.state.tx.us">science.test@tea.state.tx.us</a>

Sign up for the listserv at: <a href="http://miller.tea.state.tx.us/list/index.html">http://miller.tea.state.tx.us/list/index.html</a>

### Student Assessment Science Team

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